



#5

9/19/00

APPROVED

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Jianhua Fan

Examiner: J. Gellner

Serial No.: 09/578,437

Group Art: 3643

Filed: 05/25/2000

Docket: 12515.4USD1

Title: SELF-WATERING TRAY

RECEIVED
SEP 14 2000
TC3600 MAIL ROOM

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on Aug 31, 2000.

Alfred E. Williams
Alfred E. Williams

REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL AS ATTORNEY

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Min S. Xu, the attorney signing below on behalf of all attorneys identified by name in the Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney signed and submitted with the application herein, respectfully request permission to withdraw from all further responsibility in this case in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.36.

1. The last known mailing address of the client is:

Jianhua Fan
5800 Maudina Ave #C2
Nashville, TN 37209

2. The reasons for our request are as follows:

A. The client has an outstanding balance on an unpaid bill and has refused to pay moneys due and owing for the drafting and prosecution of the application, including payments for legal fees and PTO fees.

B. Numerous attempts have been made to collect the amounts due and owing, with no result.

C. Accordingly, action on this request is requested in sufficient time to provide the Applicant with 30 days notice of the approval of the withdrawal under M.P.E.P. §402.06.

ALLOWANCE OF TIME FOR CLIENT TO ACT

3. There are at least 30 days between the date of application for withdrawal and any expiration date of a time period for response without a possible extension period.

NOTIFICATION OF CLIENT

4. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §10.40(a), a copy of this request, including attachments, as well as all papers and property in the attorney's file concerning the prosecution of the application, have been delivered to the applicant.

NUMBER OF COPIES OF REQUEST

5. This request is enclosed in triplicate. A copy of this request is being forwarded to the client.

SIGNATURE OF WITHDRAWING ATTORNEY


6. Signature of the attorney withdrawing:

Respectfully submitted

By Attorney

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date Aug 31, 2000


Min S. Xu
Reg. No. 39,536



Merchant & Gould

An Intellectual Property Law Firm

Direct Contact

612336.4733
axu@merchant-gould.com

3643.
3200 IDS Center
80 South Eighth Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota
55402-2215 USA
TEL 612.332.5300
FAX 612.332.9081
www.merchant-gould.com

A Professional Corporation

August 31, 2000

Jianhua Fan
5800 Maudina Ave #C2
Nashville, TN 37209

RECEIVED
SEP 14 2000
TC 3600 MAIL ROOM

Re: Withdrawal From Representation/Files Transfer
Our Ref.: M&G

Dear Mr. Fan:

Due to the failure to pay on the balance in your account in a timely manner, Merchant & Gould has determined it necessary to terminate our representation regarding your issued and pending patents and pending trademarks.

To facilitate the withdrawal of our representation, we have requested from the United States Patent and Trademark Office withdrawals from representation as attorney. Please find enclosed copies of these requests to withdraw. Filing with the US PTO will allow us to formally withdraw from representation and prevent any additional legal fees. The US PTO will send notification to you upon approval of withdrawal. Once this approval is received Merchant & Gould will no longer be held responsible for your legal matters.

As a result of our application for withdrawal, I am transferring your original files to you, and have not retained copies. These files will be removed from our docket system, and we understand that you will assume responsibility for all future docket dates. Failure to respond as required to future docket dates could result in the loss of your patent and trademark rights. Enclosed is a current docket report detailing all outstanding office actions due for these files. You are advised to immediately seek new counsel so as not to jeopardize your intellectual property rights.

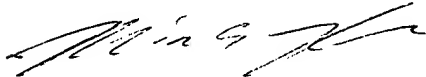
Please acknowledge receipt and assume responsibility for these files by signing and returning the attached copy of this letter.

Minneapolis/St. Paul
Denver
Seattle
Atlanta

Jian-hua Fan
August 31, 2000
Page 2

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Min S. Xu
Attorney at Law

MSX:aew

Enclosures: Files
Docket Report
Files List

cc: United States Patent and Trademark Office

I hereby acknowledge receipt and responsibility of the files on the attached files list.

Date

Jian-hua Fan